Comprehensive Overview of the Research Findings and Methodology: A Linguistic Grammar of the Sarazi Language

I. Contextualization of the Sarazi Language and Thesis Objectives

A. Genetic Classification and Undocumented Status within Western Pahari

The doctoral research documents the Sarazi language, structurally positioning it as an **Indo-Aryan language** subsuming under the subgroup **Western Pahari**. This classification places Sarazi within the New Indo-Aryan (NIA) language family. Sarazi is spoken primarily in the entire Sarazi region, concentrated in the **Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir State** in the Republic of India.

Before this exhaustive documentation, the linguistic status of Sarazi was classified as **undocumented, unclassified, and unstructured**. Critically, the language had no available written literature of its own, making the determination of its structural properties difficult. This necessitated a meticulous approach based on established cross-linguistic descriptive linguistic frameworks, relying on texts discussing languages such as Bhadarwahi and Hadoti, as well as foundational works like Grierson's *The Linguistic Survey of India*.

B. Definitive Goals: Synchronic Descriptive Grammar and Language Revitalization

The primary motivation for the research was to execute a structural description of Sarazi. The **primary objective** was the documentation of the linguistic grammar as the "first documentary contribution towards the linguistic literature of empirical studies". This documentation aimed to establish the language's structure across all major linguistic levels within the tradition of field linguistics, identifying and detailing its core components: phonemes, morphemes, words, phrases, clauses, and sentences.

The descriptive grammar followed a synchronous approach, focusing on **four core linguistic components**: phonology, morphology, syntax, and socio-linguistic aspects. Beyond purely descriptive goals, the research harbored crucial **language policy and vitality objectives**. A significant goal was to establish an **independent status** for Sarazi, differentiating it definitively from classifications suggesting it was merely a dialect (such as of Kashmiri). Furthermore, the study aimed to promote the language and bring it to the attention of the India Government to find a place in the list of **scheduled languages**. Ultimately, the concern over **language attrition** served as a major motivation, driving the researcher to document the language structurally and culturally to facilitate future efforts for its **revival and revitalization**. The comprehensive nature

of the documentation across all structural levels provides the necessary empirical foundation to argue for Sarazi's distinct linguistic identity, thereby strengthening the case for its preservation and official recognition.

II. Architecture of Field Research and Data Protocols

A. Geographical Localization and Accent Standardization: The Jodhpur Research Site

The crucial first step in the methodological design involved selecting a manageable and representative field site. The researcher chose **Jodhpur and its adjoining villages** within the Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir as the definitive research site for data elicitation.
This selection was based on a fundamental **criterion of homogeneity**. This particular geographical area was selected because it hosts a large population speaking a **uniform accent** of Sarazi. Speakers within this localized region demonstrated homogeneity in speech, maximizing mutual intelligibility to a reported 100 percent among the targeted population. This meticulous site selection was a methodological necessity, designed to **avoid the linguistic variations** that might arise from different accents found across the entire Saraz region of Doda. By limiting the scope, the documentation was able to capture the characteristics of a single, standardized variant of the language. The validity of this uniform accent was verified by administering a standard speech format (a Sarazi paragraph) to informants and comparing their respective International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) transcriptions, confirming consistency. The site comprised twelve core villages split between Panchayat A (including Bellana, Kilwana, Bhagyana) and Panchayat B (including Lower Bhatta, Upper Bhatta, Itvass), along with five adjoining villages (Bidwan, Bheri, Battal, Manyana, and Jatheli).

B. Informant Selection Criteria and Demographic Diversity in Elicitation

The native Sarazi speakers selected were treated as "language informants" or "language helpers," acknowledging their crucial role in the documentation process. Data gathering was characterized by rigorous demographic stratification, ensuring comprehensive coverage of the speech community.
The selection process utilized diverse parameters across age, gender, education, and profession, grouping informants into four age brackets: **15-25** (Students), **26-50** (Teachers, Lecturers, Professors), **51-75** (Ex-Teachers), and **76 and above** (Illiterates, Farmers). Furthermore, the corpus was constructed from the input of **monolingual, bilingual, and multilingual speakers**. For the intensive lexical phase alone, involving the wordlist collection, documentation was conducted with the help of **five hundred language informants** residing in various field site villages.

C. Multi-Modal Data Capture and Corpus Construction

The research relied primarily on **primary data** elicited and recorded directly from native speakers, encompassing word lists, sentence lists, short stories, and folk songs. Secondary data provided crucial cross-linguistic context, drawn from books, research papers, monographs, and prior dissertations.

Elicitation utilized multiple proven techniques, including **interviews**, the **participating and observation method**, and the distribution of **self-designed questionnaires**. The questionnaires focused on sociolinguistic aspects such as traditional games, rituals, and annual festivals. They were designed specifically to "avoid linguistic jargon and sophisticated language use" to ensure accurate data gathering from all populations.
To ensure lexical depth and systematic elicitation, five authoritative wordlists were consulted :

1. **SIL Comparative African Wordlist (SILCAWL):** This extensive list comprised 1700 words categorized into 12 main sections (e.g., Man's Physical Being, Animals, Grammatical Items), ensuring systematic, paradigmatic elicitation of both function and content words.
2. **Abbi's Field Manual:** Provided specific utility for collecting 407 words relevant to the Indian context, addressing cultural lexical items.
3. **Swadesh's, Comrie's, and Samarin's lists:** Consulted to enrich the overall lexical corpus.

D. Elicitation Languages and Ethical Compliance in Fieldwork

The language utilized for eliciting data was carefully selected based on the informant's linguistic proficiency : **Sarazi** was employed for monolingual speakers; **Sarazi and Hindi** were used for bilingual speakers; and for multilingual speakers, an open choice was provided, though the researcher generally preferred **Sarazi and English**.
The research adhered strictly to established **research ethics**. Official written permission was secured from the research supervisor and the Head of the Department prior to commencing fieldwork. Crucially, data were recorded only after receiving explicit **consent** from the informants and providing them with prior instructions, ensuring they were aware of the recording process. This was formalized through a **printed consent form** signed by every participating individual, supplemented by formal approval from the village Chiefs and Sarpanchs. The consent affirmed that all recordings would be used exclusively for **educational, non-commercial purposes**. To validate the corpus integrity, collected data were rigorously **cross-checked** with numerous native speakers to mitigate the risk of incorporating misleading information.

E. Analytical Toolset: Deployment of PRAAT for Acoustic Phonetics and SPSS for Quantitative Data

Data capture utilized an **Aqua HD-Power device** and a **digital video camera** to record audio and video data. The subsequent analytical phase relied on specialized linguistic software. **PRAAT Software** was the primary tool for the **phonetic analysis** of Sarazi sounds. This software facilitated the spectrographic analysis of speech, the evaluation of speech formants (F1 and F2), and the documentation of Sarazi consonants and vowels. This acoustic documentation provided empirical verification for the phonemic inventory.
For the quantitative aspects of the research, particularly the sociolinguistic data, the **SPSS Software** ("Statistical Package for the Social Sciences") was deployed. This software was essential for manipulating, analyzing, and presenting the statistical data derived from the questionnaire results. The overall study deliberately adopted a **mixed method approach**, combining qualitative (inductive structure and pattern analysis, primarily phonology/morphology/syntax) with quantitative (deductive statistical methods) methodologies. This combined approach allowed for the descriptive, inherently qualitative, questions collected

through questionnaires (e.g., questions on Mother tongue status, the language/dialect debate, and the age of language acquisition) to be **converted into numerical values** (e.g., 1, 2, 3) for statistical analysis using SPSS, thereby providing empirically measurable data on sociolinguistic attitudes to support structural descriptions.

F. Data Tagging and Representation Standards

All collected speech data underwent transcription using **International Phonetic Alphabets (IPA)** symbols, a standard practice for establishing phonemic inventories and ensuring precision in pronunciation for the linguistic community.
For structured data presentation, the original raw data was represented using a six-line tagging model adapted from external methodologies, which was then streamlined into a practical, standardized **three-line data tagging model** for the final thesis presentation. This model clearly distinguishes the three informational lines: (1) raw phonetic data and morphemic break; (2) word-to-word translation and grammatical information (case, auxiliaries); and (3) the running English translation. In compliance with academic requirements, the thesis adhered strictly to the **Chicago Citation Style Sheet** (in-text citation, footnotes, and bibliography).

III. The Phonological Structure of Sarazi Sounds (Chapter 4)

The phonological analysis aimed to define the distinctive sound segments (phonemes) and establish the language's sound system.

A. Segmental Inventory: Detailed Analysis of 37 Consonants

Sarazi possesses a rich consonant inventory totaling **37 consonants**. These segments are characterized and tabulated based on the three classical parameters :

1. **Place of Articulation:** Bilabial, dental, retroflex, palatal, velar, glottal, alveolar, and post-alveolar.
2. **Voicing:** Voiceless Unaspirated (-V Unasp), Voiceless Aspirated (-V Asp), Voiced Unaspirated (+V Unasp), and Voiced Aspirated (+V Asp).
3. **Manner of Articulation:** Plosive, affricative, nasal, fricative, approximant, lateral-approximant, tap, and trill.

Aspiration and Distribution: The language is notable for its abundant presence of aspirated sounds, identifying **10 aspirated sound segments** (including both voiced and voiceless stops, affricates, and fricatives). These include: /p^{h}/, /t^{h}/, /k^{h}/, /b^{h}/, /d^{h}/, /g^{h}/, t^{h}/, /d^{h}/, /zh/, and /t^{h}/.
While most consonants occupy all three word positions (Word Initial, Medial, and Final), distribution constraints were observed for specific segments :

- **Word Final (WF) Restrictions:** The phonemes /d^{h}/ (voiced aspirated dental plosive), /zh/ (voiced aspirated alveolar fricative), /g^{h}/ (voiced aspirated velar plosive), and /tʃ/ (voiceless unaspirated palatal affricate) were explicitly **not found** at the word final positions.
- **Word Medial (WM) Restriction:** The voiced aspirated retroflex plosive /d^{h}/ was found **not to occur** in the word middle position.
- **Word Initial (WI) Restrictions:** The voiced retroflex nasal /n/, the voiced velar nasal /n/,

and the voiced unaspirated retroflex tap /r/ **do not occur** in word initial position.

B. Vowel System: Inventory of 11 Oral and Nasal Vowels, and Vowel Length

The vowel inventory comprises **11 vowels**. These are classified based on the classical criteria of tongue position (Front, Central, Back), tongue height (High, Mid, Low), and lip rounding (found only in back vowels).
Key Vowel Features: Vowels in Sarazi exhibit a phonologically significant length feature, leading to the distinction between short and long vowels. The documented long vowels include /u:/, /a:/, /i:/, /o:/, and /e:/. Furthermore, Sarazi vowels are highly prone to **nasalization**, resulting in 14 documented nasal vowel segments (marked with a tilde), indicating the prominence of this suprasegmental characteristic.
Diphthongs and Triphthongs: Sarazi was found to possess **3 diphthongs** : /ou/ (as in /tsouro/ 'something wide'), /ei/ (as in /beiztɪ/ 'insult'), and /oa:/ (as in /boa:r/ 'broom'). Additionally, a single instance of a **triphthong** was noted: /əʊo/ (as in /təʊoçɪ/ 'spatula'), with all multi-vowel segments occurring only in the **Word Medial** position.

C. Phonological Processes: Aspiration, Gemination, and Minimal Pair Establishment

The establishment of the phonemic inventory was supported by rigorous analysis of phonological processes:

- **Minimal Pairs:** This crucial technique demonstrated that slight variations in sound segments resulted in different meanings, confirming phonemic distinction. Examples include the consonant pair: /dəb/ 'stumble' vs. /bəb/ 'father' and the vowel pair: /nof/ 'daughter-in-law' vs. /nəf/ 'runaway'.
- **Vowel Elongation:** The contrast between short and long vowels is demonstrated by minimal sets, such as /ker/ 'do' (short) versus /keːr/ 'backbone' (long).
- **Gemination:** Eleven of the 37 consonants undergo gemination (doubling). A specific phonological rule governs the realization of aspiration in geminated clusters: the **preceding consonant remains unaspirated** while the **following consonant becomes aspirated** (e.g., /ətʃtʃʰ/ 'eye').

D. Suprasegmental and Syllabic Typology: Canonical Forms and Consonant Cluster Constraints

The syllable structure adheres to the basic linguistic requirement of a nucleus (vowel) surrounded by an optional onset (initial consonant) and coda (arresting consonant).
Syllabic Structure: The most frequent patterns observed are **CVC** and **CV**. The maximal extension of the syllable structure defines the language's **canonical form**, which was found to range from the simple vowel 'V' (e.g., /ɑ:/ 'we') to the complex **CVCCCV** (e.g., /pətmjɑ:l/ 'buttock').
Consonant Clusters (CCs): Sarazi readily admits two types of consonant clusters: **/-CC-/** (two consonants) and **/-CCC-/** (three consonants). Importantly, no word attested in the corpus contained a **/-CCCC-/** (four-consonant) cluster.
The reliance on PRAAT software to generate acoustic data (spectrograms and formants F1 and

F2) for every vowel is methodologically significant. This step provides empirical, measurable verification of the frequency characteristics of the identified 11 vowels and 3 diphthongs, establishing their acoustic reality as distinct phonemes within the Sarazi sound system.

IV. Morphological Processes and Word Class Operations (Chapter 5)

The morphological analysis operates fundamentally based on a **"word based description"** methodology. Sarazi morphology is divided into nominal and verbal classes, detailing the internal structure and operations of words.

A. Nominal Morphology: Gender, Number, and Pronoun Systems

Gender System: Sarazi employs a **dual gender system**: Masculine and Feminine, which arbitrarily assign gender to both animate and inanimate nouns. Masculine nouns typically end in the vowel /o/ (e.g., /məttho/ 'boy'), though exceptions exist (e.g., /ba:d31/ 'father'). Feminine nouns generally end in the vowel /ɪ/ (e.g., /renti/ 'daughter'), also with exceptions (e.g., /dərr/ 'cave').
Number System: The language possesses two numbers: Singular and Plural. Pluralization is achieved through a variety of affixes, indicating morphological richness:

- **Masculine Plural Markers:** /-e/ (e.g., /mətth-e/ 'boys'), /-wa/ (e.g., /fona:-wa/ 'dogs'), and /-a/ (e.g., /gra:m-a/ 'villages').
- **Feminine Plural Markers:** /-jo/ (e.g., /ma:l-jo/ 'mothers'), /-ɪ/ (e.g., /sinha:n-ɪ/ 'needles'), and /-ə/ (e.g., /frək-ə/ 'roads').

Pronoun Inventory: Sarazi pronouns are categorized into five types, demonstrating inflection for case and gender/number :

- **Personal Pronouns:** Include /ə/ 'I', /a:/ 'we', and honorific/non-honorific distinctions in the second person (/to/ non-honorific vs. /tu:/ honorific).
- **Definite Pronouns:** /in/ 'this' and /in/ 'these'.
- **Indefinite, Relative, and Interrogative Pronouns:** These categories exhibit complex marking for **Ergative** and **Possessive** cases in many forms (e.g., Indefinite: /ke:tsɪ/ 'someone.ERG'; Relative: /zenɪ/ 'whom.ERG'; Interrogative: /ka:to/ɪ/e/ 'whose.POSS').

B. Adjectival Morphology and Agreement Patterns

Adjectives function to qualify nouns and exhibit mandatory agreement patterns. In the singular form, agreement is achieved via vowel changes: masculine modifiers end in /-o/ (e.g., /boddo/ 'big'), while feminine modifiers end in /-ɪ/ (e.g., /boddi/ 'big'). In the plural, masculine forms take the suffix /-e/ (e.g., /bodde/), and feminine forms take the suffix /-jo/ (e.g., /boddjo/).

C. Word Formation Strategies: Affixation, Compounding, and Reduplication

Affixation: The process of affixation is robust, utilizing prefixes and suffixes, though it is definitively stated that **infixes are unavailable** in Sarazi morphology. Examples of prefixes include /nɪ-/, /kʊ-/, /ən-/, and /ə-/. Suffixes are varied and include markers like /-o/, /-kero/, /-jero/,

and /-d ːr/.
Word Formation Strategies (WFS): The analysis explicitly documented multiple formalized WFS, demonstrating nuanced lexical operations. For example, WFS 3 showed that attaching the affix /d ːr/ to a feminine singular noun like /dʊk ːn/ ('shop') derives the compound masculine singular noun /dʊk ːnd ːr/ ('shopkeeper'), illustrating a clear example of derivation resulting in a concomitant **gender shift**.
Compounding: Compounding operates by combining two independent roots (Root + Root), resulting in morphologically complex words. Examples include kinship terms (/bəb/ 'father' + /m ːlɪ/ 'mother' \rightarrow /bəbm ːlɪ/ 'parents') or specialized vocabulary (/gʊɳ/ 'quality' + /g ːn/ 'song' \rightarrow /gʊŋg ːn/ 'praise').
Reduplication: Reduplication involves the repetition of a stem or root, classified into two types :

- **Partial (Incomplete):** This involves a phonological modification to the repeated element (e.g., / ːg-w ːg/ 'Vegetable et cetera'), typically adding the semantic sense of "something more" or "et cetera".
- **Full (Complete):** This is the identical repetition of the root (e.g., /roz-roz/ 'everyday consistently'), usually conveying iterative, temporal, or continuous action ("while walking").

D. Verbal Structure: Inflectional Markers, Causatives, and Auxiliary Systems

Sarazi is highly inflectional, with its Gender, Number, and Person (GNP) inflecting exhaustively.
Inflectional Markers: The standard root verb 'X' takes inflectional markers to denote verbal forms :

- **Infinitive:** Marked by /-no/ (e.g., /t əl-no/ 'to walk').
- **Participles:** Imperfective participles use /-t o/ (M) and /-t ɪ/ (F), while perfective participles use /-o/ (M) and /-ɪ/ (F).

Causatives: The verbal system employs a systematic dual causative system for agentivity :

- **Causative I (Direct):** Marked by /- ːɳo/ (e.g., /t əl- ːɳo/ 'to make someone walk').
- **Causative II (Indirect):** Marked by /-w ːɳo/ (e.g., /t əl-w ːɳo/ 'to make someone walk someone else').

Auxiliary System: The language utilizes a total of **19 auxiliaries**, segmented into 7 for the present tense and 12 for the past tense. This large inventory reflects the extent to which tense, aspect, and agreement features are synthesized into these auxiliary elements. Notably, the past tense auxiliaries for the **first person singular** and **second person singular** (across both genders) are marked identically (/bʊtteː/ for masculine, /bʊtjeː/ for feminine), indicating syncretism in these specific paradigms.
Table 3: Sarazi Morphological Paradigms (Inflection and Causation)

Inflectional Category	Marker (Masculine)	Marker (Feminine)	Illustrative Verb
Infinitive	/-no/	/-no/	/t əl-no/ ‘to walk’
Imperfective Participle	/-t o/	/-t ɪ/	/t əl-t o/ ‘walks’ (M)
Perfective Participle	/-o/	/-ɪ/	/t əl-o/ ‘walked’ (M)
Causative I (Direct)	/- ːɳo/	/- ːɳo/	/t əl- ːɳo/ ‘to make someone walk’
Causative II (Indirect)	/-w ːɳo/	/-w ːɳo/	/t əl-w ːɳo/ ‘make someone else walk’

V. Syntactic Framework and Grammatical Relations

(Chapter 6)

A. Constituent Order: Confirmation of the SOV/SV Typology and Postpositional Status

The syntactic analysis of Sarazi follows a constructional approach. The normal constituent order in a simple sentence, particularly for the present indefinite tense and habitual aspect, is robustly defined as **Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) type**. An example illustrating this canonical structure is /r\partial me: \int rotti kha: t\int ho/ ('Ramesh eats food'). In clauses lacking an object, the structure simplifies to the **SV (Subject-Verb) type**.
A significant typological finding, aligning with Greenberg's universals, is that due to its pervasive SOV ordering, Sarazi is definitively categorized as a **postpositional and verb-final language**. Syntactic structures analyzed include three primary sentence types: **simple, complex, and compound sentences**.

B. Morpho-Syntactic Alignment: Evidence for Aspect-Based Split-Ergativity

Sarazi employs an extensive **8-case system**, encompassing nominative (NOM), ergative (ERG), vocative (VOC), possessive (POSS), dative (DAT), oblique (OBL), accusative (ACC), and absolutive (ABS). The presence of three distinct ergative case markers (/-ɪ/, /-ei/, and /-vĩ/) immediately signals morphological complexity.
The analysis confirms that Sarazi exhibits **split-ergativity**. This alignment pattern, characteristic of many Indo-Aryan languages, is governed by the verbal aspect :

- **Ergative-Absolutive (ERG-ABSL) Alignment:** This pattern is realized exclusively in the **perfective aspect** of the verb. In this context, the transitive subject is marked by the ergative case (Agent).
- **Nominative-Accusative (NOM-ACC) Alignment:** This pattern governs all non-perfective aspects (such as the imperfective and progressive aspects).

This distinction is based on a temporal divide: the ergative marks subjects of completed actions (past events), while the nominative marks subjects of present or ongoing actions.
Table 4: Sarazi Grammatical Case System and Morpho-Syntactic Alignment

Case Type	**Count**	**Ergative Markers Identified**	**Syntactic Alignment Pattern**
Total Grammatical Cases	8 (NOM, ERG, VOC, POSS, DAT, OBL, ACC, ABS)	/-ɪ/, /-ei/, /-vĩ/	Split-Ergativity (Aspect-based: Nom-Acc in imperfective/progressive; Erg-Absl in perfective)
Primary Word Order	SOV/SV	N/A	Postpositional and Verb-Final

C. Operations on the Clause: Aspect, Negation, and Passivization

Grammatical Aspect: Sarazi formally discusses **four grammatical aspects**: habitual, progressive, perfective, and imperfective. The **habitual aspect** requires the use of auxiliary

verbs (e.g., /t\int ho/) and mandatory temporal adverbs like /ro:z/ 'daily' or /həmə:fa/ 'always'. The **progressive aspect** denotes ongoing activity and requires the main verb to adopt an oblique form (e.g., /kheddı/ 'play.OBL'), which is then combined with the progressive marker /rəwo/ 'live.PROG' and an auxiliary.

Negation and Interrogation: Negation is realized in two distinct ways: **syntactic negation** uses the overt negative marker /nə/ 'not' at the sentence level (e.g., /k\partial tth s\partial ts n\partial t\int h_{1}/ 'this talk is not true'), while **lexical negation** employs a word inherently negative in meaning to avoid explicit marking (e.g., / \iota n k\partial tt d\text{z}hu:tth t\int h\iota / 'this talk is untrue'). Interrogative sentences are typically formulated using a set of **8 k-type question words** (the equivalent of English WH-words), such as /kiw/ 'what', /kəj/ 'who', /kole/ 'where', and /kemerı/ 'how'.

Voice: Sarazi employs an active-passive distinction, capable of forming passive constructions via the process of passivization, utilizing a passive marker /lə/ 'by'. This capacity contrasts Sarazi, an Indo-Aryan language, with certain other linguistic families (e.g., Tibeto-Burman languages like Nefamese).

VI. Sociolinguistic Vitality and Cultural Documentation (Chapter 7)

Chapter 7, titled 'Sociolinguistic Aspects in Sarazi,' investigated the linguistic culture and vitality of the language community, providing essential context for the structural description.

A. Status Assessment: The Language/Dialect Debate and Recognition Objectives

The chapter addressed the core questions concerning Sarazi's status as a mother tongue and the persistent internal and external **language versus dialect debate**. Data collection focused on determining the boundaries and parameters that establish Sarazi's standardized form and its relationship to other regional languages. A major focus was documenting the **current scenario of the Sarazi language**, specifically looking at the problems of **language attrition** and the loss of its vanishing lexical items.

To provide empirical support for these attitudes, descriptive sociolinguistic data (e.g., views on classification, perceived language recognition, age of language learning) gathered via questionnaire distribution were subjected to a rigorous analysis where they were **converted into numerical values** for statistical processing using SPSS. This quantitative approach allowed the measurement of speaker perspectives, reinforcing the data used to argue for Sarazi's independent status.

B. Documentation of Cultural Lexicon: Paremiology, Festivals, and Traditional Practices

Sociolinguistic research employed specific methods focused on extracting language in cultural context :

- **Paremiology:** The comprehensive elicitation and discussion of **proverbs** were conducted, focusing on their linguistic features and reflecting cultural, social, economical, and educational domains.

- **Regional Traditions:** Data collection included linguistic materials related to **annual regional festivals**, **childhood games**, and **folk songs**.
- **Traditional Ceremonies:** The language utilized during key life cycle events was documented, including ceremonies for **marriage, death, and cremation**.

The analysis also covered the **domains of Sarazi language use**, mapping where the language is employed (e.g., inside institutions, within households, outside the institutions) and determining its viability as a *lingua franca* among Sarazi and non-Sarazi speakers. This cultural and contextual analysis provided necessary depth to the overall documentation effort.

VII. Synthesis of Structural Properties and Contribution to Linguistic Theory (Chapter 8)

A. Summary of Distinctive Sarazi Linguistic Features

The thesis successfully provided a detailed descriptive grammar of Sarazi, confirming its identity as a structurally rich, highly inflectional Indo-Aryan language under the Western Pahari subgroup. The structural properties documented form the empirical basis for recognizing its independent linguistic standing:

1. **Phonology:** The inventory consists of **37 consonants and 11 vowels**, characterized by significant features such as prominent **vowel nasalization**, phonologically distinctive **vowel length**, and the retention of a large set of **10 aspirated consonants**. The canonical syllable structure ranges maximally up to CVCCCV, and consonant clustering is restricted to CC and CCC patterns.
2. **Morphology:** The language is **highly inflectional**, demonstrated by the exhaustive inflection of Gender, Number, and Person (GNP) and the need for a total of **19 auxiliaries** to mark tense and aspect. Word formation is prolific, utilizing prefixes, suffixes, compounding, and both full and partial reduplication.
3. **Syntax and Alignment:** Sarazi operates with a primary **SOV word order** (making it consistently postpositional) and utilizes an **8-case system**. The core typological finding is its **aspect-based split-ergativity**, a pattern typical of NIA languages where the ergative case is restricted to the perfective verbal aspect.

B. Verification of Research Objectives and Limitations

The overall investigation fulfilled its primary objective of documenting the linguistic grammar of a previously undescribed language and establishing its detailed structural properties. This comprehensive documentation itself provides the empirical evidence required to argue for Sarazi's distinction from adjacent languages like Kashmiri, aligning with the objective of establishing its independent status and promoting revitalization efforts.

The study noted two primary limitations :

1. **Geographical Restriction:** The intentional selection of only the Jodhpur region and its adjoining villages, while methodologically sound for documenting a uniform accent, meant that the study **does not represent the linguistic variations** found across the entire Saraz region of Doda.
2. **Linguistic Scope:** The research explicitly excluded the advanced linguistic subfields of **pragmatics and semantics**, reserving these areas for potential future investigation. This

decision means the grammar constitutes a detailed structural description but does not fully account for meaning structure or complex discourse and language-use contexts. Addressing this pragmatic gap represents a clear direction for subsequent field research in Sarazi.